Indians in Iraq

†1991. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indians living in Iraq affected by American invasion in Iraq and the number, out of them, who have returned to India;

(b) the expenditure incurred to bring back Indians from Iraq and countries around; and

(c) whether India recognizes American Military Regime in Iraq in the absence of any Government there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) Approximately 74 Indians resident in Iraq were directly affected by the recent hostilities in Iraq. Of these, 65 have already ruturned to India.

(b) One Indian national resident in Iraq was repatriated to India at the Government expenditure of Rs. 38,788/-.

(c) UN Security Council Resolution 1483 recognises the status of the occupying powers and provides a legal basis and international mandate for administering Iraq till the formation of an internationally recognized representative Government by the Iraqi people including a role for the UN Special Representative working with the coalition Authority. India has reaffirmed the right of the Iraqi people to freely determine their political future and supports the involvement of the UNSG's representative during this interim period. In this context, the constitution of a Governing Council composed of different Iraqi groups and interests has been welcomed by India.

American statement regarding support to Jehadis

1992. PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards statement by Richard Boucher, spokesman of the U.S. Department of States that any support to Jehadis in Kashmir is illegal; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the measures taken by Government to pursue the matter with U.S. Government on its support to jehadis by its double speak?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) The United States Government has repeatedly expressed itself against cross-border terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir and has condemned terrorist incidents in the State.

(b) The two Governments regularly exchange views and assessment on terrorism, including cross-border terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir. It is Government's understanding that the U.S. Government does not support terrorist activities in Jammu and Kashmir.

Steps to Counter International Terrorism

1993. SHRIMATI JAMANA DEVI BARUPAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Australia, Britain, Malaysia, New Zealand and Singapore have agreed to examine ways to adopt their 32 years old security pact to counter a new generation threat-international terrorism;

(b) if so, whether the Ministers have approved a plan to look into expanding the military pact to include the fight against terrorism and other cross-border crimes;

(c) whether any Committee has been set up to examine ways to incorporate such issues into the military agreement, and

(d) if so, to what extent this would help in ending of global terrorism in the country.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) and (b) Yes. During the Fifth Five Power Defence Arrangements (FPDA) Defence Ministers' Meeting held in Penang in Malaysia on 2nd June 2003, the Ministers agreed to look at non-conventional forms of threats, in particular, global terrorism, piracy and illegal immigrants. The FPDA Meeting further discussed joint training, intelligence sharing and capacity building to counter terrorism.

(c) and (d) No. There had been no agreement to change the Charter and the role of FPDA. The Ministerial Meeting only acknowledged the